



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wyrick, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Flight NCO in charge maps a simulated attack area.



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wyrick, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Flight NCO in charge shows Senior Airman Theresa Margallo where simulated M-9 paper is placed on the chemical gear overgarment. Simulated M-9 paper is placed on the upper and lower arms and lower legs. A total of six strips are placed for exercise purposes.



Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wyrick, 49th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Flight NCO in charge uses a charcoal pencil to map simulated attack areas.



Airman 1st Class Paul Small teaches proper gas mask procedures during a 49th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Flight chemical warfare training class. Military members must have chemical warfare training annually.

# CE readiness helps base prepare for ORI

by Airman 1st Class  
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In 23 days, Air Combat Command’s inspector general will initiate an operational readiness inspection here.

One flight is helping to prepare the base by teaching people how to save their own lives during a nuclear, biological or chemical attack.

The 49th Civil Engineer Squadron readiness flight is responsible for detecting, warning and reporting on NBC agents to save lives and aircraft during an ORI.

Tech. Sgt. Daniel Wyrick, NCO in charge, said the flight is committed to quickly and accurately train personnel to identify Mission-Oriented Protective Posture levels.

“During an attack, we have to get an accurate picture of the damage to the base,” Sergeant Wyrick said. “We’ll determine how long the attack will affect the base and its operations. It all comes down to getting people in the correct MOPP gear to save them and continue to generate aircraft to complete the mission.”

Leading up to the ORI, Sergeant Wyrick said the flight is making sure the base has a good understanding of how to survive a chemical attack. When donning MOPP gear, members are required to wear M-9 chemical agent detection tape that changes color when exposed to agents.

Members can then swipe or dip M-8 chemical detection paper on or into an agent to determine the type of contamination.

In support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, Sergeant Wyrick deployed as a base readiness technician to prepare forward-deployed areas for possible chemical attacks.

Being in a deployed area where the threat of NBC attacks was likely, he said knowing how to use your equipment will save

your life in an exercise or real-world situation.

“Knowing how to use your gear is vital because you can’t predict what situation is going on over there,” he said. “Whether it’s an improvised explosive device or just a household chemical that can be deadly, if you know how to react to an attack, you will survive. People need to know how to wear their gear and know when to inspect it.”

Gas mask inspections are required every six months in peacetime and seven days in a wartime and exercise scenario. Members must visually inspect their masks, searching for defects, damaged or missing parts and general wear and tear. Airmen are encouraged to refer to page 206 in their Airman’s Manual for more information.

Sergeant Wyrick said that even with all the training and detection the readiness flight does, it takes teamwork from everyone to come out on top during the ORI.

“Teamwork is going to be a huge factor during this ORI,” he said. “There are many people on different levels working together. While we control NBC reconnaissance teams to survey contaminated areas, it will take all types of people doing different jobs to be successful.”

First Lt. Stacy Nimmo, readiness flight commander, said her troops are ready to help the wing survive an exercise or real-world NBC attack.

“We’ll do whatever it takes to support units before and during the ORI,” she said. “We have added weekend training to our schedule to ensure every unit is prepared. Our people are teachers and are dedicated to the wing.”

Sergeant Wyrick said his flight was the cornerstone of the base when it comes to surviving and responding to a chemical attack.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Stephen Collier

Staff Sgt. Elain Nieves dons her gas mask during chemical warfare training at the 49th Civil Engineer Squadron Readiness Flight. According to the Airman’s Manual gas mask inspections are required every six months in peacetime and seven days in a wartime and exercise scenario.